

## MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order on Wednesday, August 4, 2004, at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Bruce Wilson in the Council Chambers, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

**Present:** Bruce Wilson, James Donaldson, Johnny Safrit, Preston Sale, Cindy Bridges, Judy Kandl, Michael Lippard, Bill Safrit, Greta Connor and Barbara Perry

**Absent:** Suzette Davis

**Staff:** Lynn Raker, Janice Bodford

**Other:** Robert Crum and Mark Wineka

The minutes of the June meeting were approved with one addition in the Neighborhoods and Education report. The highest priorities for the Jersey City neighborhood were housing and sidewalks and lighting.

Reviewed and approved the financial report for July.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### Art in Public Places:

A. Robert Crum reported on the *Depot Street Mosaic Project*. Mr. Crum has been researching and working on watercolor studies of the mosaic. The purpose for his coming to the meeting today is for the CAC to review and approve the design before proceeding further.

Commission members asked a number of questions Mr. Crum's responses follow:

- 1) The design will come down close to the sidewalk. The wall goes uphill, so he will adjust the images so that they are level to the eye.
- 2) The proposal is for the telephone booth to be moved.
- 3) Regarding diversity of images, 3 of them are black individuals and 4 are white. There are no women in the mural. During that era there weren't a lot of women working for the railroad; most of them worked in the home.
- 4) The train is an image of a Southern Railway steam locomotive used on a passenger train in the late 1920's, however, Mr. Crum elected not to put the name or logo on the images because of copyrights and not having to go through the process of obtaining a release to use the logo. The watercolor is the color of the train used at that time. Most of the Southern Railway trains were black, but they used green ones with a silver front and even a red top on trains in the late '20's.

- 5) How to protect the mosaic when the sidewalk is repaired or replaced. The sidewalk can be removed with a concrete saw and jackhammer to break it into smaller pieces.
- 6) The contract with Mr. Crum is being negotiated. If he changes the imagery he would be required to come back and ask for approval of the change.
- 7) The time frame is unpredictable with the weather factor. It could be completed in 60-90 days if he is able to work straight through with no weather issues (rain & temperature). If he starts this fall (mid-September) and is able to work through early December, then he could come back out in April and could be finished as early as next June.
- 8) Regarding the durability of the materials being used. Porcelain tile is being used rather than ceramic because porcelain is much stronger and the color goes all the way through whereas ceramic color is glazed on top and is white underneath. If the porcelain tile is scratched or weathered the color would still be there. Porcelain tile is durable; it is made to be placed outdoors in extreme temperatures. The adhesive also has some latex in it so it helps with the expansion and contraction of the spaces between each tile. Bruce remarked that porcelain tile was used at the entrance of Overton Elementary School and has been there over thirty years. Mr. Crum will probably use a light gray grout between the tiles, but it isn't definite at this time.
- 9) The projected time frame from the signed contract to receiving the materials and actually starting the mosaic - Mr. Crum will order the tile the next day after getting a signed contract. Originally, the supplier said it would take 4-6 weeks for the tile to be received. Time is important here. He wants to start laying tile no later than October 1. After that we will be gambling on the weather being good enough and long enough to make good progress on the wall before having to stop until spring. The temperature should be warmer than 55.

Bill inquired about the status of the funding for the project. The City Manager has full confidence that we will be able to raise the money privately. He thinks we can go ahead with the project without every dollar in place. We do have some other possible sources for funding if individual donations are not abundant. The contract will have to go to City Council for approval; and we are hoping to get it to the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Johnny Safrit made a motion that CAC approve the proposal and try to expedite it along as soon as possible. Motion seconded by Bill Safrit. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Bruce announced that the fundraising letters were mailed out last week and the first check has been received. Bruce thanked Mark Wineka from the Salisbury Post for covering today's meeting and are hopeful that he will promote this fundraising effort in the newspaper.

C. *History and Art Trail (HAT)* –Lynn announced that a charette has been scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> hopefully at Waterworks. The charette will have a team of visiting artists and hopefully a historian from the State to come up with ideas for the Art and History Trail. We already have some great ideas but this will help give a fresh perspective and also ideas for marketing and fundraising. Lynn distributed list and map of potential sites and events for the trail. We now have a committee of local historians to review all the sites, people and events to assure that they are accurate. They are organized into 5 eras of history and motifs will be developed to represent those eras of history and they will be used to mark the different sites. The committee is looking for different materials to represent the different eras, yet having a

consistent theme to tie them together visually. They are working with a local artist and the charette team will have ideas about this as well.

The charette team will include Jim Hirschfield who is a renowned art historian, artist and teacher of art from UNC-Chapel Hill; Jeffrey York of the NC Arts Council; Jim Gallucci from Greensboro who is a metal sculptor and his associate, Catherine Cravens. Catherine used to live here. They are also hoping to get someone from the state Historic Preservation office.

The CAC commended the committee for the work done so far. It was noted that they have developed extensive guidelines for selecting and prioritizing sites, selecting artists, writing the contract, working with the artists and the HAT project promises to aid Salisbury's draw for tourism in both history and public art.

**Neighborhoods & Education Committee:** James reported that the improvements in housing in Jersey City are continuous. Waiting to hear from Joe Morris telling them when the other work will begin. They had their party (Jersey City Reunion) recently and James commented that it went very well and served to bring people closer together.

Greta reported on a meeting she attended this morning of the SNAG group. In that meeting she heard an elderly gentleman who lives on Kenly Street who made a plea for that neighborhood and having someone come in and help them get some things cleaned up. It is a blighted area and Greta told them that CAC might be able to help them set up something or help the people who live in that neighborhood to get something started. We will check to see which neighborhood this street belongs to and the name of the Neighborhood Leader.

Greta also commented that the pocket park on Lincolnton Rd. needs some attention. Lynn has talked with Ron Neiderman who installed it for Bill Godley and he will go back out and put in some additional plants where some have died. Bruce asked if there were some trees that were supposed to be planted at the back of that area. Lynn responded that trees were a part of the plan but Landscape Division did not have time last spring to plant them. They intend to plant them this fall. Sherrie Halpin has been weeding the area.

Greta reported that four trees that the City planted in Sedgefield a couple of years ago have died. Lynn will ask Mark about those. The City has some trees they can replace them with. Several comments were made about how good the trees planted on East Horah St. look.

Greta requested that at some future meeting to discuss on grass (front yard) parking. It is an appearance problem. Charlotte has attacked the problem there and is enforcing it, according to TV news coverage. We can look into Charlotte's ordinance and make a recommendation to City Council. There is also a problem with furniture on the porch.

James also reported that the Salisbury Police Department, particularly Lt. Harrison, has been very efficient in monitoring the Jersey City area and it has made a big difference. He would like for a letter to be drafted on behalf of CAC to Lt. Harrison commending him and the Police Department. Preston also commented on Lt. Harrison when he was assigned to Brooklyn South Square, he was very good.

James called attention to the appearance of the former Artopia storefront near Spanky's on North Main St. The awnings are falling. Bruce noted that the owner of the property lives out of town. The property next to Spanky's has been encouraged to apply for an MSD grant to replace the awning.

James asked Lynn about the house on Cemetery Street and she said they found out who owns it and he said he was going to move it and then something fell through on the lot he was going to move it to. He has found a new lot and the house should be moved within 30-60 days.

**Landscaping:** Johnny reported that the sign stands were taken to a machine shop to be repaired. It was supposed to have taken a week, but it turned out to be six weeks. He repaired one of them and made another one exactly like it at a cost of \$239.00. This delay caused another delay in giving the awards for June and July. Preston reported that the signs were placed for the June winners toward the end of June. Week before last they were installed at Linda Edmondson's on East Bank Street (she could not be more pleased) and at the South Main Business Center owned by Fisher Realty. When Preston called Fisher Realty (Danny Fisher) he was very pleased and also put in a plug for the apartments they are working on (formerly Spanish Arms). These signs will stay here until the first of September when they will be moved to Manning Park and the Huffman's residence.

Bill nominated 401 Richmond Rd for residential and we will check out the Spanish Arms apartments for potential nomination.

**Municipal Service District and Innes Street Improvement Grants:** Lynn reported that we have \$22,000 in this year's budget for MSD Grant and \$25,000 for the Innes Street Grant. She has already received 4 or 5 grant applications and an ad will be in tomorrow's newspaper and also Friday or Saturday's paper. It will also be in the Downtown Salisbury newsletter. The first deadline is August 17<sup>th</sup> for application submissions. Lynn and Bill will set a date for a meeting of the committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Barbara encouraged all CAC members to come to the charette September 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. Public input will be given on Monday right after lunch and the final presentation will be around lunchtime on Tuesday.

Bruce announced that he has invited an artist to come to the October Appearance Commission meeting. He is a professional sculptor and does large scale bronze sculptures. He will give a presentation to help this commission understand the medium of sculpture. We will invite the City Council members and others interested as a follow-up to the charette.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Lynn stated that 6 new planters have been purchased, planted and are now in place. F&M Bank purchased 3, Chamber of Commerce, 2 and the City of Salisbury 1 (purchased with TEA-21 Grant money). They have been placed in front of the Chamber of Commerce, behind the Chamber in the parking lot and at F&M Bank.

The railroad bridge is probably a couple of weeks away from switching traffic to the other side. The railing looks great and there will be four streetlights on each side. They will be the same lights we have on Main St. There will also be a median.

In further "Old" Business the Commission wished Happy Birthday to Johnny Safrit, James Donaldson and Bill Safrit.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.